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MAGAZINE NOTES

Prelims Specific Facts (January 1-15)

15 January 2026 ·

ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY & CULTURE

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Prelims Specific Facts (January 1-15)

 **Down to Earth** Chapter 15 · 1 min read ·

Species Mentioned

SPECIES	KEY DETAIL
Great Indian Bustard (<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>)	State Bird of Rajasthan; 100-150 individuals; 90% range loss
Phog Bush (<i>Calligonum polygonoides</i>)	Native Thar desert plant; flowers mixed with curd traditionally
Sal Tree (<i>Shorea robusta</i>)	Mass felling for Delhi-Dehradun expressway; worshipped by Jharkhand adivasis
Stingless Bees	World's oldest bee species; pollinate 80%+ Amazonian flora; first insects to gain legal rights (Satipo, Peru)
Common Cuckoo	Transcontinental migrant (E. Asia → Africa); Jhalana (Aravallis) as energy stopover

Geographical Features

FEATURE	LOCATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Saranda Forest	West Singhbhum, Jharkhand	Asia's largest sal forest; threatened by iron ore mining
Bhitarkanika NP	Odisha	Satabhaya villages swallowed by coastal erosion
Mudumalai Sanctuary	Nilgiri hills, Tamil Nadu	Elephants, bears, deer, bison
Rispana & Bindal Rivers	Dehradun valley	Seasonal rivers killed by concrete embankments; caused Sept 2025 Sahastradhara cloudburst floods
Changthang Region	Ladakh	High-altitude plateau; shrinking pasturelands

Reports & Indices

REPORT	KEY FINDING
UNEP “Navigating New Horizons” (2024)	Warned of “eco-anxiety” / “climate grief” among youth
DTE Opinion Survey (2025)	88% youth feel climate changing; 94% worried about future
UNEP Young Champion of Earth	Indian Jinali Mody — Banofi Leather (banana-waste vegan leather)

Art & Culture (Tribal Traditions)

- **Ho Adivasi People:** Austroasiatic Munda ethnic group in Kolhan State, Jharkhand; unique traditional governance
- **A:bang (Adi Tribe, Arunachal Pradesh):** Epic oral narrative chanted by a **Miri** (shaman/historian); documents birth of universe, plants, animals; promotes co-existence with nature
- **Dujit:** Adi tribe term meaning “squatted the river dry” — describes stream disappearance from human encroachment
- **Mishrikand (Jicama):** Root vegetable (Bihar, West Bengal, eastern UP); eaten raw as *prasad* during **Saraswati Puja**



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